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Women in the Design World: Work in Progress

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Janet Hurwitz, AIA, Owner/Principi JHA-
Architects / BA72, M.Arch75, MSW75

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Private Art Gallery
JHA-Architects, Project Architect
Design through Construction Administration
Completed 2012

Located on a 50 acre property in New England, the Gallery was built to house the owners’ art collection. The design was informed by its context: a sloping wooded site overlooking a pond. The primary intent was that the building be secondary to its topography and landscape. Thus it follows the contours and is built into the slope, with only a low wall visible from the private road, and located along one of the many walking paths on the property. The building was also designed to give equal importance to viewing the art and to viewing the landscape. The large windows and overhangs extend the gallery to the outside, shade the art, and define the exterior walking path. The two large gallery spaces, held together by a stone wall, are connected by a glass walkway and exterior courtyard. Movable hinged walls within the spaces allow for flexible exhibit options. Rainwater is directed off the roof for irrigation and as a water feature in the courtyard. Materials include board formed concrete, low-e tempered insulated glass, and zinc coated copper.

Note: the artwork has been altered at the owners’ request.



- Graduated with an emphasis on user participation, worked on several large urban design projects including Project Urban Designer for a 7 mile transitway in Boston.
- 1982 -Started JHA, completing over 80 projects: renovations, additions & new construction. Focus on high-end residential, but include commercial, educational, and healthcare.

- Chaired Architecture Committee of the Back Bay Neighborhood, sat on 3 Boston planning studies, developed and taught a course at Northeastern. Juror: UPenn, Harvard, BAC.
- Raised 2 sons.
- Design philosophy - context is paramount.
- Wash U helped instill confidence that much was achievable.

AWARDS
APA Comprehensive Planning Award, Civic Vision Air Rights Committee, 2000
National Endowment for the Arts Presidential Design Award, Southwest Corridor Project.
Project Urban Designer, Stull and Lee, Inc, 1988
AIA Scholastic Award, 1975
Association of Women in Architecture and Allied Arts Annual Award, 1974

PUBLICATIONS
DMG-DRS Journal: Design Research and Method, 1975, “Participatory Planning, Soulard, St. Louis: A Case Study”
Better Homes and Gardens, 2014
Traditional Home, 2012
Boston Magazine, 2011

Carriage House Renovation and Additions
Chestnut Hill, MA
JHA- Architect, Project Architect
1998- 2012

Located within the Chestnut Hill Historic District, this carriage house was originally built in 1904 as part of the Houghton estate. Uniquely designed in an asian/spanish stucco style, the main structure, built around a courtyard, originally housed stables, storage for the carriages, the stableman’s quarters, and a small building for an early automobile.

Employed by two sequential owners, JHA’s work on the property included renovation and restoration of the main buildings, several additions, and a separate three-car garage.

The new design and additions reused and reorganized the spaces and materials to adapt to a single-family house. For example, the stables became the master bedroom and the original garage is now an in-law apartment. The design intent was to blend the unique character and materials of the original structure into the current design.



Alumnae Biography

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